

LATTITUDES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2008

LONG ISLAND GROUP NEWSLETTER

State Senator Honors Group at Military Ball

HOLBROOK, NY – January 18, 2008. Long Island Group held their Third Annual Military Ball and saw a record number of members, friends, guests and dignitaries attend. This year the event was held at Villa Lombardi's, an elegant catering hall in the heart of Suffolk County, NY and drew 250 people including the Guest of Honor, NY State Senator Owen Johnson who presented both the Group and the Group's Commander with special proclamations, approved unanimously by the NY State Senate.

Other dignitaries in attendance were New York Wing Commander Col Ken Andreu and several members of his staff. The evening was presided over by the Group's Commander, Lt Col Jack Ozer and the event's project officer was Maj Lou Fenech, Jr.

The evening's formalities began with the posting of the Colors by the 2007 LI Group Color Guard and the rendering of appropriate toasts. Then Col Andreu presented NYW Commander's Commendation Awards to Maj

Lou Fenech, Jr., and 50 year Member Maj Robert Poggioli, both of the Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron for their efforts in securing funding from various state and local government offices for the group and wing.

Several Officer Promotions then took place: Lt Col James Hirsch of Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 7, LI Group Legal Officer Capt Susan Hartmann, Capt Stephen Nocita of the Brian M. Mooney Squadron and 2nd Lt Michele Wuestman all received their promotions. There were also two special cadet awards: C/2nd Lt Raymond Bott of Suffolk Squadron 10 who received his General Billy Mitchell Award from Senator Johnson and C/2nd Lt William Pisano of Suffolk Cadet Squadron 9 who received an Air Force Association Citation from Cathy Ward of the Air Force Association in recognition of his contributions to the Association throughout the NY community.

As an added attraction this year, two cadets from Hofstra University's National Society of Pershing Rifles, Company Q-8, performed an armed trick drill rou-



NY State Senator Owen Johnson presents proclamation to LI Group Commander Lt Col Jack Ozer.

tine to the delight of the enthusiastic crowd just after dinner was served. Everyone in attendance was thrilled with the presentation, "this was one of the best Military Balls I've ever been too, and I've been to a few in my day" commented USAR SFC Robert Barron, one of the evening's guests, "and the trick drill routine by the cadets was outstanding".

At the end of the evening the announcement that next year's Military Ball had been scheduled at the Villa Lombardi's for the night of January 17, 2009 met with an enthusiastic ovation.

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Latitudes—Long Island Group Newsletter, CAP

Commander—Lt Col Jack Ozer
Vice Commander—Capt Alan Gibbs
Editor-in-Chief: Capt James Ridley
Contributors— Capt Susan Hartman
Capt Bill McGee
Maj Lonnie McLaughlin
C/Lt Col Jim Ridley II

LIG Partners With Masons—Holds Blood Drive



Group Commander Lt Col Jack Ozer and fellow Masons pose in front of the LIG HQ.

HOLBROOK, NY – April 5, 2008. Working in conjunction with the Suffolk Masonic District - Long Island, NY members of the Civil Air Patrol Long Island Group staff led by its commander Lt Col Jack Ozer held a blood drive at the group's headquarters.

CAP members, masons, their families, friends and people who simply stopped by after seeing the blood drive sign in front of building, donated 42 pints of blood to the cause. Nurses from the Suffolk County Blood Services organization commented that "it was one of the best collections from an organization do-

ing a drive like this for the first time" that they had ever seen. 55 people offered to donate but only 42 were selected after the initial screening.

"This was the first time I can recall that the Long Island Group held such an event" noted Ozer, "the Suffolk County Masons approached us with the offer of partnering up and we jumped at it because it provided us with one more way of serving our community further". For 5 hours this morning, there was a steady stream of people all hoping to be able to add to the blood bank. These people were there to support their neighbors and

prepare for times of need as well as to get a glimpse of the Civil Air Patrol, their volunteers and CAP's commitment to volunteer service. "It was a good day" said one CAP member-donor, "Lt Col Jacques Heinrich, 'people have been coming in and out all day, it's a great thing to see.'"

Ozer sees this as just the beginning and believes that more such blood drives will be hosted in the future bringing even more people through the doors and having their donations accepted.

"CAP members, masons, their families, friends and people who simply stopped by after seeing the blood drive sign in front of building, donated 42 pints of blood to the cause."



New Color Guard Champions Crowned



Squadron 10 Color Guard Commander Cadet Donald Conste, accepts the award for first place from Lt Col Jack Ozer.

PATCHGOUE, NY – February 2, 2008. Out of the largest and most competitive field of teams ever to compete for the title "LI Group Color Guard" emerged the team from Squadron 10. The Squadron 10 team was commanded by Cadet Donald Conste who was also selected as the Outstanding Cadet by the

seven judges present.

Squadron 10 won first place honors in Inspection, Indoor Presentation, Outdoor Presentation and the Mile run and placed second in the remaining events earning enough points to edge the Gabreski Squadron, Squadron 9 and Squadron 7. The Gabreski squadron de-

fended their crown admirably placing a respectable second, but in the end could only congratulate their successors and wish them well at the upcoming NY Wing competition. Individual Awards were presented to Cadet Ronald Marciszyn of Squadron 10 for the Highest Male Written Exam and Cadet Brianna Do-

herty of Squadron 9 for the Highest Female Written Exam. The Male Fleet Foot Award was presented to Cadet Nicholas Chiarelli of Squadron 10 and the Female Fleet Foot Award was presented to Cadet Ashley Langdon of Squadron 9.

The judges for this year's event, as well as the last two competitions, were

college Air Force and Army ROTC cadets from Manhattan College and Hofstra University. The day also saw the Gabreski team's Mentor, 1st Lt Jack Arena receive his promotion.

The Color Guard competition was held for the third year in a row at Pat-chogue Medford High School under the command of Maj Lou Fenech

who was the Project Officer. This year the event featured four of the six cadet squadrons which make up the Long Island Group. "We hope to get to the point where all six cadet squadrons participate" said Fenech. "Every year we get a little closer to realizing that goal" he said



Cadet Color Guard Team during the outdoor practical event.

Unit Commanders Course Held on LI

LAKE GROVE, NY – March 8, 2008. For the first time in years the Long Island Group held a Unit Commanders Course (UCC) for the members of the New York Wing. The UCC was managed by Major Pete Cubano, Captain Jim Ridley and Cubano's staff and included lecturers and instructors from across the group and wing. "Many of the lecturers have been helped us at SLSs and CLCs that we've produced over the past four years and this year we added a couple of new faces like the NY Wings Cadet Program Officer Major Steve Samuels and they are always prepared and do a

great job of instructing the students" stated Cubano.

Since this was the first time this course was held on Long Island the material was fairly new to the instructors also since the need for such a course

Groups participated in the course and graduated on Sunday, several of whom were either in command positions or eager to earn one at some point in their CAP careers. "This was great" said one of the students, "I feel so much more prepared to assume command of a squadron if need be."

Cubano's staff doesn't plan on stopping here, this fall they are plan-

ning on holding another SLS and the second TLC on Long Island, the group held the first ever TLC in the NY Wing in April 2006, a PAO Workshop is also planned.

was so great, the staff did it's best to appoint lecturers to the course that best fit their experience and positions. Over 20 students from both the Long Island and New York City

"Many of the lecturers have been helped us at SLSs and CLCs that we've produced over the past four years"



LI Senior Squadron Assists Blue Angels



"The Blue Angels—known for the acrobatic displays performed by its six blue and gold Boeing F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets—is officially known as the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron."

REPUBLIC AIRPORT, FARMINGDALE, N.Y., 27 May 2008 — The Long Island Senior Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol was proud to provide support and assistance to the U.S. Navy's elite demonstration squadron, the "Blue Angels," when it participated in the 2008 Bethpage Federal Credit Union New York Air Show at Long Island's Jones Beach on Memorial Day weekend.

The Blue Angels—known for the acrobatic displays performed by its six blue and gold Boeing F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets—is officially known as the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. During its visit to Jones Beach, members of the Long Island Senior Squadron assisted with a myriad of tasks, from flight line support to security, and crowd control to VIP escorts. Senior members and cadets from several squadrons of the Civil Air Patrol's Long Island Group also lent support while the Blue Angels were temporarily based at Republic Airport, home of the Long Island Senior Squadron.

"We were honored to lend a hand to the Navy in any way we could," said Capt. Joseph Pizzo, Squadron Commander of the Long Island Senior Squadron. "But it was especially gratifying to assist the Navy as we paid tribute on Memorial Day

to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country." Civil Air Patrol, the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a civilian, volunteer, nonprofit service organization. The unpaid members perform more than 85% of inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and conduct one of America's finest youth programs through Civil Air Patrol Cadet Programs.

The Long Island Senior Squadron is based at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, N.Y. The Long Island Group is based at Long Island MacArthur

Airport in Islip, N.Y. In 2007, the Long Island Senior Squadron provided assistance to the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration squadron.

Since its inception in 1946, the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels has performed for more than 427 million fans. Its mission is to enhance Navy recruiting and credibly represent Navy and Marine Corps aviation to the United States and its Armed Forces to America and other countries as international ambassadors of good will. It is based at Forrest Sherman Field, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida.



Cadet Receives 4 Year Army ROTC Scholarship

NORTHPORT, NY - Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Michelle Mudge, of the Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 7 and a Commack High school senior, has been awarded a full U.S. Army 4 year ROTC scholarship to attend the University Of North Dakota. As part of the scholarship offering cadet Mudge has also been awarded a \$35,000 grant to pay for flight lessons to become a helicopter pilot. Upon graduation, Mudge

will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army's Aviation Branch and will attend Aviation Officer's Basic Course (OBC) at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Cadet Mudge is currently the squadron 7 cadet recruiting officer and was a member of the color guard team which competed in the Long Island Group Cadet Competition in February. Michelle's interest in flying led her to

join the Civil Air Patrol two years ago and in less than 18 months she has risen to her current rank and before graduating from Commack H.S. has vowed to achieve the rank of c/2d Lt. "Michelle is a great cadet and a great young person" noted her squadron commander Captain Darren Cioffi, "she is a role model for other cadets to follow and we're very proud of her at squadron 7."



c/CMSgt Michelle Mudge receives her solo wings at the NY WG Encampment graduation ceremony in July of 2008. Mudge was a student pilot at the encampment's powered flight academy.

CAP Supports Music and Balloon Festival

BROOKHAVEN CALABRO AIRPORT, Shirley, NY — August 9, 2008. Over 80 Cadet and Senior members of the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) diligently provided security services at the Metro NY Balloon and Music Festival held at Brookhaven's Calabro Airport.

As thousands of people attended the festival to see hot air balloons and hear the myriad of bands and performers, Cadet and Senior members manned posts around the perimeter of the airport insuring that traffic flowed properly to and from the event and keeping peaceful side streets calm. Long Island Group Commander Lt. Col. Jack Ozer explained

that "we're helping our community by providing more than 80 cadet and senior members from all over Long Island who are providing security and services as a community service during balloon-

"This is the event I look forward to working at every year because of the wonderful people in Civil Air Patrol I have the pleasure of working with."

Squadron 7's Cadet Commander c/2d Lt. Brianna Doherty, who is heading to the University of Scranton on a premed track in two weeks, was selected to head the cadet staff over the

fest."

Commanding the event on behalf of CAP was Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 7 commander Capt. Darren Cioffi. "It's nice to be able to go out and work in the community as a unified group presenting ourselves as the professionals we strive to be" Cioffi said,

three day event. "[Things were] a little hectic in the beginning but all the cadets are cooperating and everyone is having a fun time. I'm happy because everyone else is happy," Doherty stated. Balloon festival was a huge success, and many potential problems were alleviated by the work of the Civil Air Patrol.



Squadron 10 Conducts Leadership Bivouac



HAUPPAUGE, NY – April 6, 2008. Over the last three days cadets from four of the six squadrons of the Long Island Group camped out in the woods of Blydenburgh County Park in Hauppauge for a weekend leadership bivouac.



The bivouac was sponsored by Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10 (Squadron 10) and led by a team of cadets from several squadrons like the bivouac's commander c/1st Lt Krystal Reynolds of Squadron 10, deputy commander c/1st Lt Alex Scandaloto of Suffolk Cadet Squadron 5 and executive officer c/2d Lt Stephanie Filiberto of the Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron. Over 50 ca-

dets participated representing a cross section of the Long Island Group with cadets from Suffolk cadet squadron's 5, 6, 9 and 10.

The cadets arrived on Friday afternoon and began setting up their tents and then held an opening formation before collecting firewood. There were many classes, team and confidence building exercises held including classes on customs and courtesies, basic leadership, drill & ceremonies, general CAP knowledge, CISM and uniform care & wear to mention a few. Confidence building exercises like the rope maze, log situps and pushups were also conducted. The weekend was in the

overall command of the project officer, Captain Ben Nodar, Squadron 10's commanding officer.

Overall the cadets had a great experience and learned a lot, the Public Affairs staff took over 450 pictures during the weekend and the staff cadets learned a lot about leadership and taught some new and older cadets a few things over the three day event. The bivouac also served another purpose, preparing some cadets heading to the upcoming Rhode Island and New York Wing encampments some valuable preparatory experience before they attend a week long encampment away from home.

Strong Island Sound Represents NY WG at NER Cadet Competition

"The competition was organized by the NER Director of Cadet Programs, Col Craig Treadwell who along with a dedicated staff has run this competition for many years. "

CHICOPEE, MA – May 25, 2008. Teams from six of the nine wings which comprise the Northeast Region of the Civil Air Patrol met in competition at Westover Air Reserve Base. They competed in various events for the right to earn the title of NE Region Color Guard champion. Joining them were 4 wing Drill Team entrants.

Color Guard teams from the New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Connecticut wings competed in several events such as inspection, standard drill, indoor and outdoor practical, panel quiz, written exam

and the mile run while Drill teams from the New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut wings competed in inspection, standard and innovative drill, the mile run, volleyball, panel quiz and written exam. In the end only two teams could be crowned champions and plan a trip to Wright Patterson AF Base in June for the National Cadet Competition.

The color guard competition saw the reigning champions from the New York Wing retain their crown while the drill competition saw the team from New Hampshire win the honors.

The competition was or-

ganized by the NER Director of Cadet Programs, Col Craig Treadwell who along with a dedicated staff has run this competition for many years. The entire event took place over a three day weekend with teams arriving on Friday where they registered and received team briefings. The majority of events began early on Saturday morning and concluded well into the night, the final event, the panel quiz, took place Sunday morning and ended with the awards ceremony.

Col Treadwell concluded the competition by congratulating all the teams

Drill Team Continued...



NY WG Drill and Color Guard Teams pose in front of their well deserved trophies.

and cadets who competed and wished the winners well in the national competition. Treadwell also expressed an appreciation to the Westover base and the officers and enlisted personnel who assist CAP every year.

The NY WG Drill Team was comprised of cadets exclusively from Long Island. Cadets from four different squadrons, the Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron, Suffolk

County Cadet Squadron numbers 7, 9 and 10.

The Drill Team finished 3rd overall in the competition just 5 points out of first place, but they learned valuable lessons which will serve them well when they compete again in 2009.

The Drill Team was named after their sponsor, the Strong Island Sound basketball program of Suffolk County.



"The group has led a UCC, blood drive, cadet leadership bivouac, SAR Academy, numerous SAREXs and training exercises and the year is only half complete."



NY WG Events Well Attended by LIG

The Long Island Group was well represented in two of the New York Wing's largest annual events, the Wing Conference and Leadership Encampment.

The wing conference which was held in Lake George in early May saw over 40 cadets and seniors attend the planned events and cadetfest.

During the banquet which was held on the ship the "Lac du Saint Sacrement", cadets and seniors ate and danced and mingled with other CAP members from around the wing and region.

Captain Paul Zuckerberg, the group logistics officer was presented with a commanders commendation for his leadership in closing down the old group headquarters in Garden City. The Long Island Group was named best overall in Emergency Services and credited

with flying more hours on its aircraft than any others in the wing and c/Lt Col Jim Ridley II won the cadet speech contest.

The New York Wing Leadership Encampment held at Stratton ANGB in Scotia, NY in July also saw over 40 cadets from the Long Island Group attend as both staff and in-flight. LI Cadets held staff ranks as cadet XO, Group Commander, Flight Commander, Flight Sergeants and staff officers. Several received challenge coins and the two highest honors given to flights, that of Warrior and Honor flights, went to units lead by LIG cadets.

So far 2008 has been a good year for the Long Island Group. The group has led a UCC, blood drive, cadet leadership bivouac, SAR Academy, numerous SAREXs and training exercises and the year is only half complete.



The Reynolds family of the LIG. All 5 attended the NY WG Encampment. From L-to-R—1st Lt G. Reynolds, c/Capt E. Reynolds, 1st Lt. C. Reynolds, c/TSgt L. Reynolds and c/Capt K. Reynolds.

LONG ISLAND GROUP NEWSLETTER

Long Island Group
Civil Air Patrol
U.S Air Force Auxiliary
5 Oak Place
Selden, NY 11784

E-mail: pao@capli.com



Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 56,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 103 lives in fiscal year 2007. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 65 years.

On The Web:

www.lig.nywg.cap.gov

Awards Presented at the 2008 Military Ball

Cadet NCO of the Year:
C/CMSgt Carissa Lackey, Col
Francis S. Gabreski Squadron
Cadet of the Year: C/2d Lt
Joshua Medina, Col Francis S.
Gabreski Squadron

Officer of the Year Award: Major
Lou Fenech, Jr., Col Francis S.
Gabreski Squadron

Squadron of the Year: Col Fran-
cis S. Gabreski Squadron

Officer of Distinction Award:
Captain Ray Pardo, LIG Senior
Squadron

Squadron of Distinction Award:
Brian M. Mooney Squadron

White Scarf Award: 1st Lt John
Corcasas, LI Senior Squadron

Several Counter Drug Awards were also presented to the following:

Ltc Jack Ozer	Basic
CD Ribbon	
Ltc Jacques Heinrich	CD
Ribbon with addition 10 sortie clasp	
Ltc Dennis Bannon	Basic
CD Ribbon	
Maj Warren Ratis	CD
Ribbon with addition 10 sortie clasp	
Maj Michael Kelly	Basic
CD Ribbon	
Maj Daniel Rogers	Basic
CD Ribbon	
1st Lt Dean Fawley	CD
Ribbon with addition 10 sortie clasp	
1st Lt John Rapps (NYW)	Basic
CD Ribbon	

